

The background features a large, faint, circular seal of the State of Missouri. The outer ring of the seal contains the text "THE GREAT SEAL OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI" in a serif font, separated by a rope-like border. Inside this ring, there is a shield with various symbols, including a star, a plow, and a sheaf of wheat. The shield is flanked by two figures, likely representing Liberty and Justice. Below the shield, there is a banner with the Latin motto "SALUS IN SUPREMO" and the date "MDCCCXX".

# Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission

2006 Annual Report

## Background

The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) was created by SB252 and HB348 in 2005. The goals of the legislation are to make Missouri more military-friendly and to poise Missouri to retain the military presence that we currently have as well as enhance military presence with the addition of new missions to ensure future viability of our Missouri military installations.

The Missouri Department of Economic Development, in accordance with SB252 and HB348, provides staffing and support for the Commission.

## Board Responsibilities

SB252 and HB348 have three main components:

- Establishes the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission
- Provide for planning and zoning around Whiteman Air Force Base
- Allows military dependents to attend Missouri colleges and universities at in-state tuition rates

## Membership

### Commission Members

Mr. Dalton Wright, Lebanon, *Chairman*

Representative David Pearce, Warrensburg, *Vice Chairman*

Mr. Craig Borchelt, Chesterfield

Ms. Loretta Charleston, Florissant

Mr. Kent D. Thomas, West Plains

Mr. Robert Welling, Warrensburg

Senator Frank Barnitz, Lake Spring

Senator Chris Koster, Harrisonville

Representative Terry L. Witte, Vandalia

### Ex-officio Members

Mr. Gregory A. Steinhoff, Director, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

### Advisory Members

Brigadier General King E. Sidwell, Adjutant General, Missouri National Guard

Hal Dulle, Executive Director, Missouri Veterans Commission

Robert Hagedorn, Congressman Ike Skelton's Chief of Staff

Rachel Wheeler, Whiteman Air Force Base Liaison

### DED Staff

Mike Mills, Deputy Director, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

Michael Nichols, Project Manager, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

Krista Zurkamer, Designated Principle Assistant, Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

## Meetings

Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission meetings were held on the following dates and at the following locations:

- January 9, 2006, Jefferson City
- May 24, 2006, Jefferson City
- September 6, 2006, St. Louis
- October 18, 2006, Jefferson City
- November 29, 2006, Jefferson City

Education of Military Dependents Task Force meetings were held on the following dates and at the following locations:

- February 2, 2006, Jefferson City
- March 2, 2006, Jefferson City

## Education of Military Dependents Task Force

### Task Force Members

Kent D. Thomas, Missouri State University, *Chairman*

Dana Cass, Knob Noster School Board

Dr. Judene Blackburn, Waynesville School District

Judy Castro, Fort Leonard Wood

Rachel Wheeler, Whiteman Air Force Base

Melissa Randol, Missouri School Boards Association

Hal Dulle, Missouri Veterans Commission

Representative David Pearce, MMPEC Vice Chair

Senator Frank Barnitz, MMPEC member

The Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission (MMPEC) has actively solicited comments from Missouri military personnel and their families. The majority of the comments received by the Board pertained to education. The Commission determined that it would be helpful to invite representatives from the school districts that surround Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base to participate on a task force to review the issues. The Task Force was asked to determine if there are issues related to access to education for students in military families stationed in Missouri and if so find ways to address those issues.

## 2006 Action Items Completed

The following have been completed within the calendar year of 2006.

**1. Business Development and Job Creation Opportunities**

- a. Appropriate staffing by DED to support the Commission in dealing with military issues contemplated by HB348 and SB252.

**2. Military Quality of Life Issues**

- a. The appointment of a task force to review the information from the "Department of Defense Model Legislation to Address the Issues of the Mobile Military Child" and study ways in which Missouri, at both the state and local level, can best address the educational concerns of Missouri-based military personnel and their families. The Commission will, based on the recommendations of the task force, develop strategies and make recommendations after a thorough review of the options available, including the residency requirements for school board elections, as well as allowing absentee voting at school board elections by non-resident military personnel and their spouses stationed at Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base.

**3. Ex-Military and Retired Military Initiatives**

- a. Recommendation to the Missouri General Assembly for funding of additional Missouri state veterans cemeteries.

**4. Communication Between Missouri Military, MMPEC and State Agencies**

- a. Integration of the services of the Missouri State Veterans Ombudsman as the MMPEC Ombudsman to provide referral information and related services to military personnel and their dependents while stationed in Missouri.

**5. Education of Military Dependents**

- a. Developed a print and/or web document that provides answers to some of the frequently asked questions from military families with regard to education access in Missouri.

## **2007 Action Items**

The Commission has continued progress with the issues introduced in the 2005 Annual Report and has identified additional issues of importance to the military community in Missouri. Information was provided by Commission members, commanders at Missouri's military facilities and through comment forms provided to military personnel stationed in Missouri.

These issues have been compiled into a working list and will be the focus of the Commission's work during calendar year 2007.

**1. Economic Impact of Military Posts and Defense Related Industries in Missouri**

The Commission will:

- a. In coordination with Missouri Department of Economic Development, produce an annual report on the economic impact of Missouri's military facilities and defense-related industries.

## **2. Business Development and Job Creation Opportunities**

The Commission will:

- a. Hold a series of meetings in 2007 with defense-related industries to identify ways that Missouri can create an environment that encourages the growth and expansion of defense-related businesses.
- b. Promote Missouri as a location for military or defense related industries.
- c. Request the Department of Economic Development (DED) to prepare an analysis of defense-related contracting and expenditures in Missouri. As part of this analysis DED will survey prime Department of Defense (DOD) contractors to determine if their sub-contracting opportunities are going to Missouri companies or out-of-state companies and will work with these prime contractors to encourage contracting with in-state companies.
- d. Promote job training assistance for military spouses and job creation for spouses through local economic development by leveraging resources like the Fort Leonard Wood Technology Park and private industry partnerships.
- e. Assist recruiting by having the state provide certificates to new recruits that chose career fields that are compatible with state civilian jobs guaranteeing them an interview and possible advantage in job selection for open positions.
- f. Analyze the opportunities for economic growth in the Fort Leonard Wood and Whiteman Air Force Base areas.
- g. Examine opportunities to remediate Missouri losses because of Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) and advocate reversal of BRAC realignment with respect to the Human Resources Command in St. Louis.

## **3. Military Quality of Life Issues**

The Commission will:

- a. Work to become an education military-friendly state as defined by the Department of Defense.
- b. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to allow joint reciprocating licenses for occupations such as teachers and nurses.
- c. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to allow waiving penalties for small businesses (e.g., failure to renew business registration with Missouri Secretary of State, late payment of business taxes or other fees, etc.) when the Guard or Reservist owner is on active duty.
- d. Investigate issues related to school enrollment and transfers (age, required courses, etc.) such as permitting reciprocity on required classes (e.g., "state constitution" as required part of curriculum).

- e. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to grant an age exemption to children of military personnel being transferred to or within Missouri, thereby allowing admission to Kindergarten or first grade whenever appropriate to the circumstances of the transferring child of those military personnel.
- f. Continue development of a strategy to promote enabling legislation to allow absentee voting at school board elections by non-resident military personnel and their spouses at Whiteman Air Force Base and Fort Leonard Wood.

#### **4. Ex-Military and Retired Military Initiatives**

The Commission will:

- a. Advocate for a more proactive mechanism to promote the Missouri “Troops to Teachers” program.
- b. Recommend to the Missouri General Assembly adequate funding for existing Missouri state veterans cemeteries.
- c. Advocate for awareness of education and training opportunities for military personnel.

#### **5. Communication Between Missouri Military, MMPEC and State Agencies**

The Commission will:

- a. The MMPEC Chair will invite each military post or base commander to designate a liaison to the MMPEC in order to provide information and ideas and assist in the accumulation of needs about military serving in Missouri.
- b. Recommend that the Missouri General Assembly amend current state statutes to make the Chairman of the Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission an ex-officio member of the Missouri Veterans Commission and vice versa.
- c. Request the Governor of Missouri expand the functions of the Missouri Veterans Commission to coordinate with the agencies on the installations to ensure that active duty service members and family members, in addition to National Guard and Reservists, have the opportunity to access job services provided by the Missouri Division of Workforce Development.

#### **6. Encroachment as a Negative to Expansion of Military Posts and Bases and Enhancement of Mission Capabilities for Military Posts and Bases Located within the State of Missouri.**

The Commission will:

- a. Investigate military posts and bases in Missouri to ascertain the land expansion needs of each post or base and formulate a strategy to work with and harmonize efforts with post or base commanders to accomplish acquisition of additional land utilizing the post and base commanders’ discretionary authority to do so with Federal funds and, in addition, to implement whatever Federal administrative or legislative action necessary to achieve the expansion goals.
- b. Determine the feasibility of creating a standby state and local authority to provide funds to use in lieu of such Federal discretionary

funds available to Commanders of posts and bases and, if appropriate to supplement with State or local funds, if necessary.

- c. Study and formulate a land bank or lease back or other land acquisition strategies providing good neighbor relations, but with land use controls to protect the mission of the military posts or bases.
- d. Investigate the possibility of state agencies or local government acquiring or protecting land needed by the military posts and bases to protect against current or latent encroachment issues.

## **7. Education of Military Dependents**

The Commission will:

- a. Communicate to students and parents the transfer requirements of Missouri High School Activities Association (MHSAA) to participate in school sports.
- b. Graduation requirements – Rep. Pearce and Sen. Barnitz will have House or Senate Research look at differences between Missouri and other states.
- c. Fingerprints – Military Installation Liaisons will inquire at their respective bases about getting fingerprinting done on site. If necessary, Ms. Zurkamer will secure supply of cards from DESE.

## **8. Ongoing Resources**

The Commission will:

- a. Recommend that Missouri contract with a consultant/advocate to assess the possibility of enhancements or losses to Missouri with regard to future BRAC or similar initiatives and to pursue the objectives of the Commission as outlined in the enabling legislation. The Commission further recommends that the funding of this consultant/advocate be placed within the Department of Economic Development or other appropriate state agency's FY07 budget.
- b. The Commission will request that the Missouri General Assembly provide sufficient funding to the Commission to allow for a consultant to furnish advice and assistance on positioning Missouri to retain its existing military facilities and to acquire additional missions for Missouri military installations.





**Missouri Military Preparedness and Enhancement Commission**

Missouri Dept. of Economic Development

P.O. Box 118

Jefferson City, Missouri 65102

Phone: (573) 526-3606

Fax: (573) 751-7384

Email: [MMPEC@ded.mo.gov](mailto:MMPEC@ded.mo.gov)

Web: [www.MMPEC.ded.mo.gov](http://www.MMPEC.ded.mo.gov)